

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1. (currently amended) A connector-(A; B), comprising:

a housing-(10) with at least one cavity-(11) for receiving at least one female terminal fitting-(20),

a tab insertion opening-(14) formed in a front surface of the housing-(10) and communicating with the cavity-(11), the tab insertion opening-(14) having a substantially rectangular cross section and configured to permit insertion of a tab-(21a) at the leading end of a male terminal fitting-(21) into the cavity-(11), and

an opening-(17) formed in the front end surface of the housing-(10) and at least partly partitioned from the tab insertion opening-(14) by a partition wall-(18),

wherein at least one reinforcement-(19) bulges out towards the center of the tab insertion opening-(14) from at least one end of the partition wall-(18) defining at least one corner of the tab insertion opening-(14).

2. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein side edges of the tab insertion opening-(14) and an inner surface of the reinforcement-(19) are smoothly continuous with each other.

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein a tapered guide-(16) is formed at an opening edge of the tab insertion opening-(14) in the front surface of the housing-(10) and has an area that increases towards the front surface of the housing-(10), and the reinforcement-(19) has an inner surface substantially in the form of a section of a cone, a radius of curvature of an arc of the inner surface of the reinforcement-(19) increases from the front surface of the housing-(10) towards a cavity side in the tapered guide-(16).

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein a tapered guide-(16) is formed at an opening edge of the tab insertion opening-(14) in the front

surface of the housing-(10) and has an area that increases from a cavity side towards the front surface of the housing-(10), and the reinforcement-(19) has an inner surface substantially in the form of a section of a cone, a radius of curvature of an arc of the inner surface of the reinforcement-(19) decreases from the front surface of the housing-(10) towards the cavity side in the guide-(16).

5. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein a tapered guide-(16) is formed at an opening edge of the tab insertion opening-(14) in the front surface of the housing-(10) and has an area that increases from a cavity side towards the front surface of the housing-(10), and the reinforcement-(19) has a substantially slanted inner surface with a width that increases from the front surface of the housing-(10) toward the cavity side.

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein a tapered guide-(16) is formed at an opening edge of the tab insertion opening-(14) in the front surface of the housing-(10) and has an area that increases from a cavity side towards the front surface of the housing-(10), and the reinforcement-(19) has a substantially slanted inner surface with a width that decreases from the front surface of the housing-(10) toward the cavity side.

7. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the tab insertion opening-(14) comprises a positioning portion-(15) with a cross section for positioning the tab-(21a) with respect to transverse and vertical directions.

8. (currently amended) The connector of claim 7, wherein the opening (47) has a portion-(17a) with a maximum width larger than a maximum width of the positioning portion-(15), but smaller than a maximum width of the guide-(16).